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CIA chief peddles goodwill

By JOHN DURHAM

The chief of the Central Intelligence Agency is on a goodwill swing through California and his message is openness.

Adm. Stansfield Turner, who served four Navy tours based in San Diego, returned yesterday for interviews, news conferences and a speech to the local establishment.

Today he is in Los Angeles for a town meeting and tomorrow he makes his way to Sacramento to talk to the Comstock Club.

On all the stops the theme will be basically the same: The CIA, thrust into the limelight by Vietnam and Watergate and buffeted by criticism of its role in Chile and Angola, has "come to operate in a much more open way than ever before in history."

The agency, Turner said at a joint San Diego Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis Club lunch at El Cortez Hotel, is getting out of the spies-and-revolutions business and concentrating on gathering and analyzing information.

To launch a covert operation in a foreign country now, he said, the agency would need the blessing of President Carter and would have to brief congressional leaders.

And the CIA is making available more of its intelli-

gence information, he said.

"Being open is being American," Turner said. "No agency can remain effective unless it has the support of the American public."

He said in the past the intelligence community had the support of the public, but it was a backing granted "on faith."

Then, he said, when the CIA was intensely criticized in the mid-1970s, there was no reservoir of public support.

His current trip is aimed at building such a reservoir. The audience here, which included Mayor Wilson and a generous sprinkling of Navy brass, responded with warmth and enthusiasm.

Such speeches, which Turner and his top aide

make about a half-dozen times a month, are part of a three-pronged attempt to spread the gospel of an open agency, Turner said.

The other two tactics, he said, are increased frankness with the media and publishing information and reports such as forecasts of energy demands abroad.

Even with the new open atmosphere, Turner said, the CIA is not giving away the store.

"These are controlled disseminations, made by responsible officials. We are not simply opening the flood gates," he said.

"We are not telling every professional employee to go out and say what he wants to say. Some things must still remain secret," he said.

MORI/CDF